29th November 1928]

(b) if so, what the cost is; and

(c) whether the Government propose to reconsider the question of increasing the pay of village officers?

A.—(a) & (b) A report has been received from the Board of Revenue but it did not contain full particulars of the financial effect of the restoration. The Board has been asked to supply them.

(c) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

Rules governing the conduct of village karnams.

965 Q.—Mr. V. Kameswara Rao Nayudu: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are any rules governing the conduct of karnams and village headmen; and

(b) if not, whether the Government propose to prescribe such rules, as in the case of other Government servants?

A.—(a) & (b) The Village Officers' Manual contains rules for the guidance of village headmen and karnams.

[For further list of unstarred questions, please see page 480 infra.]

STARRED QUESTIONS

Agriculture

Introduction of agricultural classes in the Board High School at Poonamallee.

* 966 Q.—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the experiences gained by the Agricultural Department, and the results achieved, by the introduction of agricultural classes and an agricultural farm in the Board High School, Poonamallee;

(b) the expenditure incurred by the Government thereon during the year 1927-28; and

(c) whether the Agricultural Department supervised the farm opened in the Poonamallee High School and whether the department propose to advise any improvements?

A.—(a) The Agricultural Department beyond giving advice when asked for it has not taken any special part in this experiment.

(b) The Agricultural Department have not expended anything.

(c) Advice was given by the Demonstrator at St. Thomas' Mount and the Deputy Director, IV Circle, during their visits to the school. Such advice from them can always be had when sought for.

Excise

Classification of palmyra or coconut toddy arrack as foreign.

* 967 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether arrack made from coconut or palmyra toddy is in any part of the Presidency classed as foreign; and

(b) if so, where and why?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Palmyra toddy arrack is not at present manufactured anywhere in the Presidency. Coconut toddy arrack is manufactured in the distillery at Chowghat, Malabar district. On the recommendation of the Board of Revenue the Government in 1906 declared that, with effect from the lease commencing on 1st October 1906, coconut toddy arrack should be treated as foreign liquor and sold only in taverns and for private consumption in bottles. The objects of this order were to check illicit distillation and sale, to safeguard Government revenue, and to reduce the consumption of cheap imported foreign liquor.

Medical

Contributions to the Lady Havelock Hospital by the Cocanada Municipality.

*968 *Q.*—Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Lady Havelock Hospital, Cocanada, was started by the District Board, East Godavari, and was being maintained by them for 30 years ;

(*b*) whether the District Board threatened to close down the hospital in 1926 and whether the Municipal Council was called upon to make a contribution of Rs. 2,000 a year for the maintenance of the hospital in 1926 ;

(*c*) whether the Cocanada Municipal Council passed resolutions to the effect that, in view of the large schemes on hand such as electricity, town extension and water-supply, the Council in the straitened circumstances cannot afford to pay the contribution ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the Government expressed its unwillingness in May 1928 to relieve the Cocanada Municipality of the contribution ;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that on account of the present financial straitened circumstances and large commitments by reason of expensive schemes in operation, the Cocanada Municipal Council had to close down the Ayurvedic dispensaries which were recently opened ; and

(*f*) whether, in view of the circumstances mentioned in clauses (*c*) and (*e*), the Government would reconsider its decision to relieve the Municipal Council, Cocanada, from the yearly contribution of Rs. 2,000 to the Lady Havelock Hospital ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The Municipal Council passed a resolution on 6th September 1926 requesting the Government to relieve it of the payment of the contribution. This resolution did not refer to the schemes mentioned in the question, but the Chairman referred to these schemes in a letter, dated 25th April 1928.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) The Government will consider the question.